

Jackson County, Michigan

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the Year Ended March 31, 2008



SPRING ARBOR TOWNSHIP

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INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

September 26, 2008

Board of Trustees Township of Spring Arbor Spring Arbor, Michigan

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of *Spring Arbor Township*, *Michigan*, as of and for the year ended March 31, 2008, which collectively comprise the Township's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Township's management. Our responsibility is to express opinions on these financial statements based on our audit.

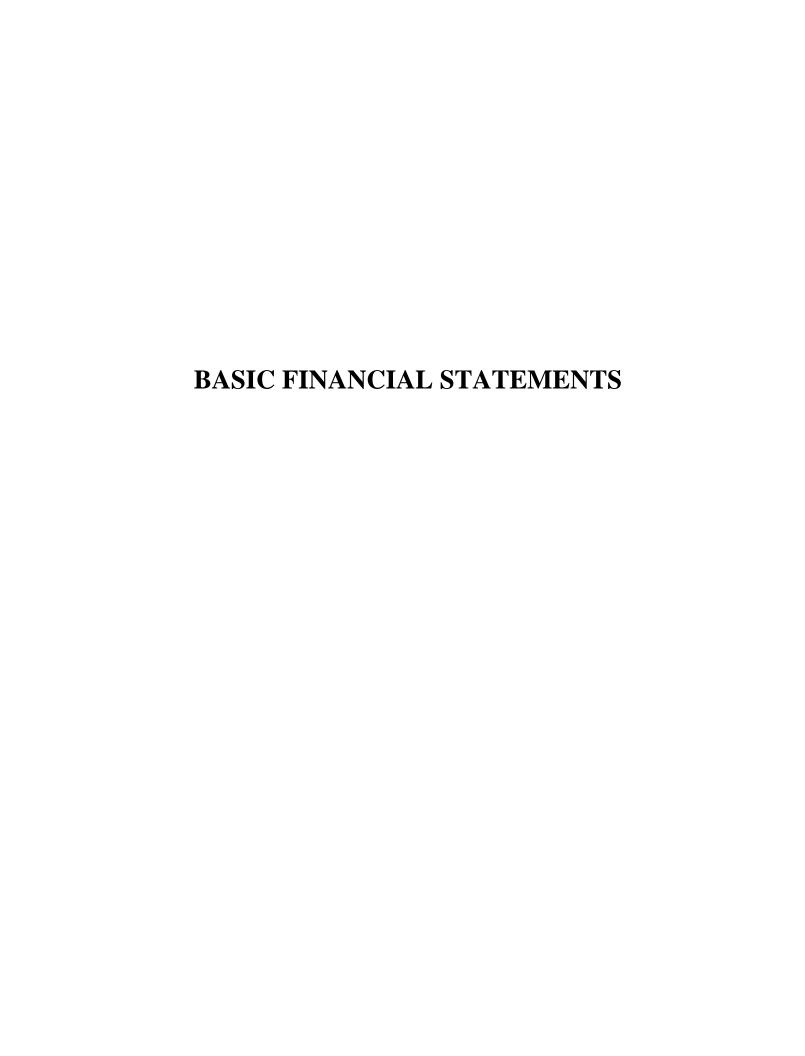
We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinions.

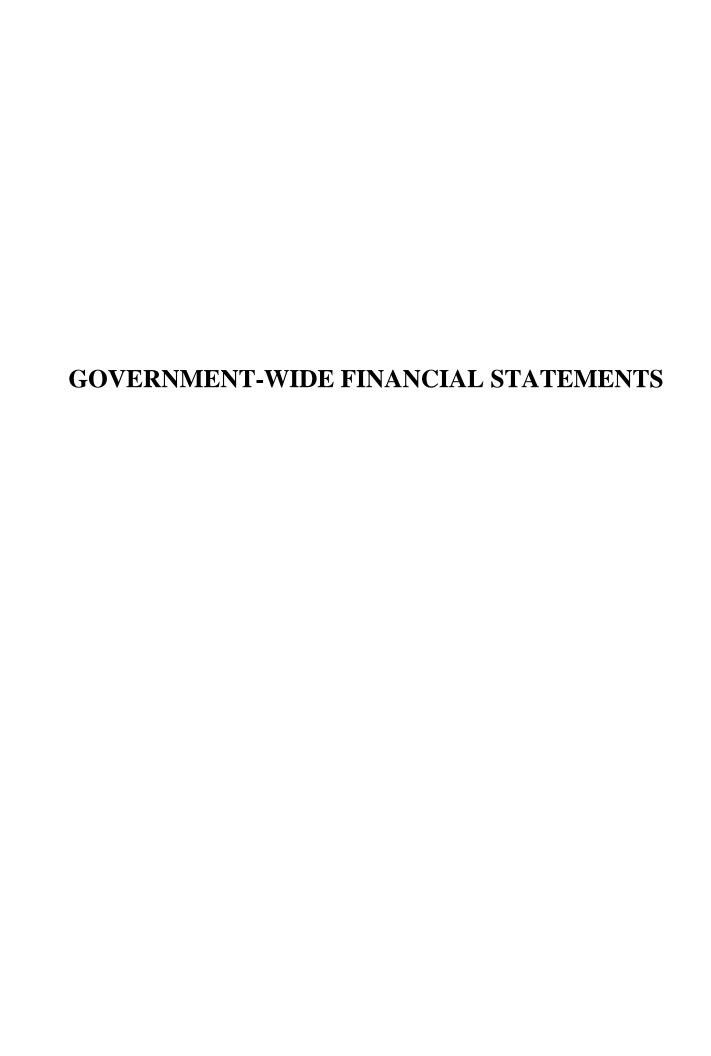
In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Spring Arbor Township, Michigan, as of March 31, 2008, and the respective changes in financial position and cash flows, where applicable, thereof and the budgetary comparisons for the general fund and each major special revenue fund, for the year then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

The Township has elected not to present Management's Discussion and Analysis as required supplementary information. The GASB has determined that such information is necessary to supplement, although not required to be part of, the basic financial statements.

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise Spring Arbor Township's basic financial statements. The combining fund financial statements listed in the table of contents are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the basic financial statements. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and, in our opinion, is fairly presented, in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole.

Rehmann Lohan





Spring Arbor Township Statement of Net Assets March 31, 2008

	Governmental Activities		Business-type Activities		 Total
Assets					
Cash and cash equivalents	\$	213,676	\$	102,761	\$ 316,437
Investments		773,070		1,249,598	2,022,668
Receivables, net		172,621		362,092	534,713
Capital assets not being depreciated		431,846		230,146	661,992
Capital assets being depreciated, net	2	,368,423		4,855,247	 7,223,670
Total assets	3	,959,636		6,799,844	10,759,480
Liabilities					
Accounts payable and accrued expenses		6,855		100,933	107,788
Long-term liabilities:					
Due in one year		3,368		25,000	28,368
Due in more than one year		47,182		405,000	 452,182
Total liabilities		57,405		530,933	588,338
Net assets					
Invested in capital assets, net of related debt	2	,749,719		4,655,393	7,405,112
Restricted for:					
Fire millage		609,094		-	609,094
Other purposes		93,631		-	93,631
Unrestricted		449,787		1,613,518	2,063,305
Total net assets	\$ 3	,902,231	\$	6,268,911	\$ 10,171,142

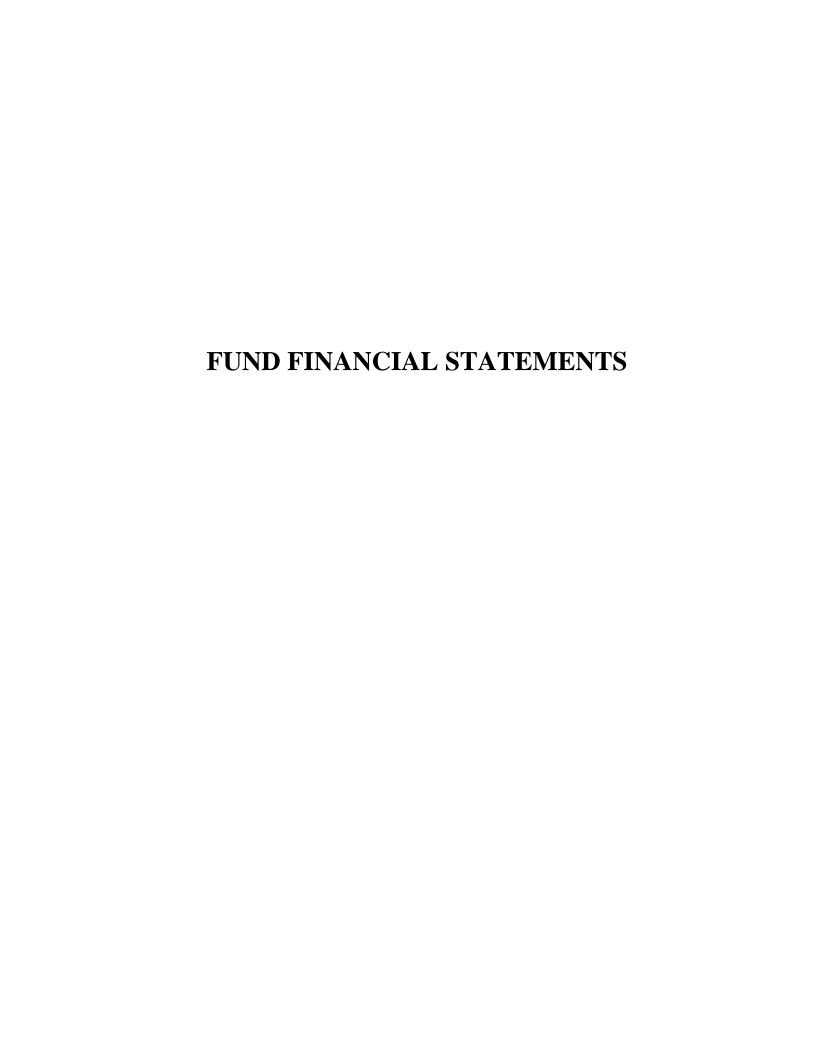
Spring Arbor Township Statement of Activities For the Year Ended March 31, 2008

			Program Revenues						
Functions/Programs	Expenses	Charges for Services	Operating Grants and Contributions	Capital Grants and Contributions	Net (Expense) Revenue				
Primary government									
Governmental activities:									
Legislative	\$ 87,634	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (87,634)				
General government	421,509	167,978	133,559	-	(119,972)				
Public safety	576,056	225	21,137	-	(554,694)				
Public works	48,398	14,974	13,081	-	(20,343)				
Recreation and culture	85,719	5,195	1,344	-	(79,180)				
Interest on long-term debt	2,138	-	-	=	(2,138)				
Total governmental activities	1,221,454	188,372	169,121		(863,961)				
Business-type activities:									
Sewer	760,059	488,640	67,444	-	(203,975)				
Water	283,387	200,489	31,885	-	(51,013)				
Total business-type activities	1,043,446	689,129	99,329		(254,988)				
Total primary government	\$ 2,264,900	\$ 877,501	\$ 268,450	\$ -	\$ (1,118,949)				

continued...

Spring Arbor Township Statement of Activities (Concluded) For the Year Ended March 31, 2008

Functions/Programs	Governmental Activities		Business-type Activities		Total	
Changes in net assets						
Net (expense) revenue	\$	(863,961)	\$	(254,988)	\$ (1,118,949)	
General revenues:						
Property taxes		414,529		-	414,529	
State shared revenue		521,453		-	521,453	
Unrestricted investment earnings		14,458			14,458	
Total general revenues and contributions		950,440			950,440	
Change in net assets		86,479		(254,988)	(168,509)	
Net assets, beginning of year		3,815,752		6,523,899	10,339,651	
Net assets, end of year	\$	3,902,231	\$	6,268,911	\$ 10,171,142	



Spring Arbor Township Balance Sheet Governmental Funds March 31, 2008

	(General]	Fire Millage	Ionmajor vernmental Funds		Total
<u>ASSETS</u>							
Assets							
Cash and cash equivalents	\$	115,979	\$	77,965	\$ 19,732	\$	213,676
Investments		158,845		524,755	89,470		773,070
Accounts receivable		3,734		-	-		3,734
Interfund receivable		17,891		-	-		17,891
Taxes receivable		12,952		11,308	-		24,260
Special assessments receivable		-		-	2,326		2,326
Due from other governments		142,260		-	-		142,260
Interest receivable		41			 		41
TOTAL ASSETS	\$	451,702	\$	614,028	\$ 111,528	\$ 1	1,177,258
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES							
Liabilities							
Interfund payable	\$	-	\$	-	\$ 17,891	\$	17,891
Accounts payable		1,915		4,934	6		6,855
Total liabilities		1,915		4,934	 17,897		24,746
Fund balances							
Unreserved, undesignated		449,787		609,094	-	1	1,058,881
Unreserved, undesignated - reported in		,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,		,			, ,
nonmajor special revenue funds					 93,631		93,631
Total fund balances		449,787		609,094	93,631	1	1,152,512
TOTAL LIABILITIES							
AND FUND BALANCES	\$	451,702	\$	614,028	\$ 111,528	\$ 1	1,177,258

Reconciliation of Fund Balances on the Balance Sheet for Governmental Funds to Net Assets of Governmental Activities on the Statement of Net Assets March 31, 2008

Fund balances - total governmental funds

\$ 1,152,512

Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of net assets are different because:

Capital assets used in governmental activities are not financial resources and therefore are not reported in the funds.

Add: capital assets Deduct: accumulated depreciation 4,761,226

(1,960,957)

Certain liabilities, such as bonds payable, are not due and payable in the current period and therefore are not reported in the funds.

Deduct: installment purchase contract payable

(50,550)

Net assets of governmental activities

\$ 3,902,231

Spring Arbor Township Statement of Revenue, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances Governmental Funds For the Year Ended March 31, 2008

	Fire General Millage		Gov	Nonmajor Governmental Funds		Total	
	 General		Millage	runas		-	Total
Revenue							
Taxes	\$ 173,438	\$	196,914	\$	-	\$	370,352
Special assessments	-		-		44,177		44,177
Licenses and permits	1,229		-		37,892		39,121
State shared revenue	521,453		-		-		521,453
Contributions	1,800		-		5,149		6,949
Interest and other revenue	 297,783		18,837	-	9,261		325,881
Total revenue	 995,703		215,751		96,479		1,307,933
Expenditures							
Current:							
Legislative	85,717		-		-		85,717
General government	326,142		-		41,122		367,264
Public safety	204,674		296,432		-		501,106
Public works	903		-		42,977		43,880
Recreation and culture	60,994		-		2,531		63,525
Debt service:							
Principal	-		-		3,239		3,239
Interest	-		-		2,138		2,138
Capital outlay	 		109,694		12,647		122,341
Total expenditures	 678,430		406,126		104,654		1,189,210
Revenue over (under) expenditures	 317,273		(190,375)		(8,175)		118,723
Other financing sources (uses)							
Transfers in	_		253,899		34,475		288,374
Transfers (out)	 (288,374)		-	-			(288,374)
Total other financing sources (uses)	 (288,374)		253,899		34,475		<u>-</u>
Net change in fund balances	28,899		63,524		26,300		118,723
Fund balances, beginning of year	 420,888		545,570		67,331		1,033,789
Fund balances, end of year	\$ 449,787	\$	609,094	\$	93,631	\$	1,152,512

Reconciliation of the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Change in Fund Balances of Governmental Funds to the Statement of Activities For the Year Ended March 31, 2008

Net change in fund balances - total governmental funds	\$ 118,723
Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of activities are different because:	
Governmental funds report capital outlays as expenditures. However, in the statement of activities, the cost of those assets is allocated over their estimated useful lives and reported as depreciation expense.	
Add: capital outlay	132,856
Deduct: depreciation expense	(168,339)
Long-term debt proceeds provide current financial resources to governmental funds in the period issued, but issuing long-term debt increases long-term liabilities in the statement of net assets. Repayment of long-term debt is an expenditure in the governmental funds, but the repayment reduces long-term liabilities in the statement of net assets.	
Add: principal payments on long-term liabilities	3,239
Change in net assets of governmental activities	\$ 86,479

Spring Arbor Township Statement of Revenue, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance - Amended Budget and Actual General Fund

For the Year Ended March 31, 2008

	Original Budget	Final Budget	Actual	Over (Under) Budget
Revenue				
Taxes:				
Current property taxes	\$ 160,800	\$ 160,800	\$ 159,962	\$ (838)
Delinquent property taxes	10,000	10,000	13,147	3,147
Unpaid personal property taxes	500	500	329	(171)
Total taxes	171,300	171,300	173,438	2,138
Licenses and permits:				
Business licenses	300	300	5	(295)
Trailer permits	1,400	1,400	1,224	(176)
Total licenses and permits	1,700	1,700	1,229	(471)
State shared revenue:				
M-60 Task Force grant	-	-	2,324	2,324
Liquor licenses	1,200	1,200	1,049	(151)
Sales tax	524,000	524,000	518,080	(5,920)
Total state shared revenue	525,200	525,200	521,453	(3,747)
Contributions			1,800	1,800
Other revenue:				
Service fees	9,000	9,000	6,623	(2,377)
Tax collection service fees	79,000	79,000	75,350	(3,650)
Rental fees	100	100	80	(20)
Land division fees	500	500	225	(275)
Administrative charges:	22 000	22.000	10.001	(12.000)
Sewer	23,000	23,000	10,901	(12,099)
Water	10,000	10,000	3,895	(6,105)
Building cost allocations Private road maintenance	12,000	12,000 200	170	(12,000)
	200 5,000	5,000	178 3,391	(22) (1,609)
Cemetery foundations Grave openings	22,500	22,500	17,800	(4,700)
Cemetery lot sales	6,000	6,000	7,800	1,800
Park user fees	200	200	30	(170)
Senior Center user fees	4,000	4,000	5,165	1,165
Parking fines	100	100	90	(10)
Fines and forfeits	10,500	10,500	6,623	(3,877)
Property rental	10,800	10,800	11,100	300
Cable TV royalties	50,000	58,000	60,002	2,002
Reimbursements	11,400	11,400	72,004	60,604
Interest and other revenue	16,500	20,700	16,526	(4,174)
Total other revenue	270,800	283,000	297,783	14,783
Total revenue	969,000	981,200	995,703	14,503

Continued...

Spring Arbor Township Statement of Revenue, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance - Amended Budget and Actual (Concluded) General Fund

For the Year Ended March 31, 2008

		riginal Budget	mended Budget	Actual	(1	Over Under) Budget
Expenditures						
Legislative	\$	42,666	\$ 40,966	\$ 85,717	\$	44,751
General Government:						
Township Supervisor		56,073	57,373	56,322		(1,051)
Elections		6,400	7,400	7,358		(42)
Assessor		56,081	56,981	56,299		(682)
Township Clerk		64,380	64,880	63,333		(1,547)
General Office		19,986	19,986	13,364		(6,622)
Board of Review		1,995	1,995	1,586		(409)
Treasurer		62,780	62,780	55,757		(7,023)
Township Hall		16,532	16,532	15,518		(1,014)
Post Office		2,425	2,425	1,859		(566)
Maintenance Building		1,550	3,050	2,605		(445)
Township Property		12,385	17,685	17,142		(543)
Cemetery		44,682	 44,682	 34,999		(9,683)
Total general government		345,269	 355,769	 326,142		(29,627)
Public Safety:						
Police		195,803	195,803	182,389		(13,414)
Communications		890	1,190	878		(312)
Planning Commission		20,910	24,010	20,064		(3,946)
Zoning Board of Appeals		970	970	1,168		198
Township Street Lights		300	300	175		(125)
Total public safety		218,873	222,273	204,674		(17,599)
Public Works:						
Streets and Roads		800	800	725		(75)
Private Streets and Roads		200	200	178		(22)
Total public works		1,000	1,000	903		(97)
Recreational and Cultural:						
Gallagher Park		29,277	29,277	24,601		(4,676)
Senior Center		41,149	41,149	36,393		(4,756)
Total recreational and cultural		70,426	70,426	60,994		(9,432)
Total expenditures		678,234	690,434	678,430		(12,004)
Revenue over expenditures		290,766	290,766	317,273		26,507
Other financing uses						
Transfers out		(288,374)	(288,374)	(288,374)		_
	-	(=00,011)	 (=00,071)	 (=00,07.1)		
Net change in fund balances		2,392	2,392	28,899		26,507
Fund balance, beginning of year		420,888	 420,888	 420,888		
Fund balance, end of year	\$	423,280	\$ 423,280	\$ 449,787	\$	26,507

Spring Arbor Township Statement of Revenue, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance - Amended Budget and Actual Fire Millage Special Revenue Fund For the Year Ended March 31, 2008

	Original Budget		Final Budget		Actual		Over (Under) Budget
Revenue	 						_
Property taxes	\$ 200,520	\$	200,520	\$	196,914	\$	(3,606)
Interest revenue	 12,000		12,000		18,837		6,837
Total revenue	 212,520		212,520		215,751		3,231
Expenditures							
Public safety	301,016		301,016		296,432		(4,584)
Capital outlay	 115,300		115,300		109,694		(5,606)
Total expenditures	 416,316		416,316		406,126		(10,190)
Revenue (under) expenditures	(203,796)		(203,796)		(190,375)		13,421
Other financing sources							
Transfers in	 253,899		253,899		253,899		
Net change in fund balance	50,103		50,103		63,524		13,421
Fund balance, beginning of year	 545,570		545,570		545,570		
Fund balance, end of year	\$ 595,673	\$	595,673	\$	609,094	\$	13,421

Spring Arbor Township Statement of Net Assets Enterprise Funds March 31, 2008

	Sewer Water Fund Fund		Totals
Assets			
Current assets:			
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 36,376	\$ 66,385	\$ 102,761
Investments	982,767	266,831	1,249,598
Receivables:			
Special assessments	-	320,293	320,293
User fees	28,646	5,414	34,060
Interest	840	-	840
Delinquent user and connection fees	4,987	1,712	6,699
Total current assets	1,053,616	660,635	1,714,251
Noncurrent assets:			
Accounts receivable - connection fees	_	200	200
Capital assets, net	2,741,359	2,344,034	5,085,393
Total noncurrent assets	2,741,359	2,344,234	5,085,593
Total assets	3,794,975	3,004,869	6,799,844
Liabilities			
Current liabilities:			
Accounts payable	100,932	1	100,933
Bonds payable - current portion	-	25,000	25,000
Total current liabilities	100,932	25,001	125,933
Long-term debt			
Bonds payable - net of current portion	-	405,000	405,000
Total Palance	100.022	420.001	520,022
Total liabilities	100,932	430,001	530,933
Not agests			
Net assets Invested in conital assets, not of related daht	2.741.250	1 014 024	4 655 202
Invested in capital assets, net of related debt Unrestricted	2,741,359	1,914,034	4,655,393
Omesaicted	952,684	660,834	1,613,518
Total net assets	\$ 3,694,043	\$ 2,574,868	\$ 6,268,911

Spring Arbor Township Statement of Revenue, Expenses and Changes in Net Assets Enterprise Funds For the Year Ended March 31, 2008

	Sewer Fund		Water Fund	Totals		
Operating revenue	Fund	<u> </u>	Fulla		Totals	
Connection fees	\$ 2	9,500 \$	41,035	\$	70,535	
User fees		9,140	155,676	Ψ	614,816	
Penalties		0,227	3,778		14,005	
Other		3,241			3,241	
Total operating revenue	50	2,108	200,489		702,597	
Operating expenses						
Administrative fees	1	5,396	6,713		22,109	
Pension		942	-		942	
Office expenses		3,280	521		3,801	
Professional services		6,993	5,408		12,401	
Insurance and bonds		9,416	1,443		10,859	
Utilities	5	9,374	246		59,620	
Water usage		-	138,205		138,205	
Treatment charges	27	5,324	-		275,324	
Maintenance	20	2,193	466		202,659	
Depreciation	18	6,053	71,112		257,165	
Other		1,050	40,285		41,335	
Total operating expenses	76	0,021	264,399		1,024,420	
Operating loss	(25	7,913)	(63,910)		(321,823)	
Nonoperating revenue (expense)						
Interest revenue	5	3,976	31,885		85,861	
Interest expense		(38)	(18,988)		(19,026)	
Total nonoperating revenue	5	3,938	12,897		66,835	
Change in net assets	(20	3,975)	(51,013)		(254,988)	
Net assets, beginning of year	3,89	8,018	2,625,881		6,523,899	
Net assets, end of year	\$ 3,69	4,043 \$	2,574,868	\$	6,268,911	

Spring Arbor Township Statement of Cash Flows Enterprise Funds For the Year Ended March 31, 2008

	Sewer Fund		Water Fund		 Totals
Cash flows from operating activities					
Cash received from customers	\$	486,784	\$	199,323	\$ 686,107
Cash payments to suppliers for goods and services		(526,114)		(193,704)	(719,818)
Net cash provided (used) by operating activities		(39,330)		5,619	 (33,711)
Cash flows from capital and related financing activities					
Principal payments on long-term debt		-		(25,000)	(25,000)
Interest payments on long-term debt		-		(18,988)	(18,988)
Collections on special assessments		-		23,818	23,818
Purchase of capital assets		(202,161)			 (202,161)
Net cash used by capital and related financing activities		(202,161)		(20,170)	 (222,331)
Cash flows from investing activities					
Interest received on investments		53,938		31,885	85,823
Purchase of investments		-		(4,951)	(4,951)
Sale of investments		182,388			182,388
Net cash provided by investing activities		236,326		26,934	 263,260
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		(5,165)		12,383	7,218
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of year		41,541		54,002	 95,543
Cash and cash equivalents, end of year	\$	36,376	\$	66,385	\$ 102,761

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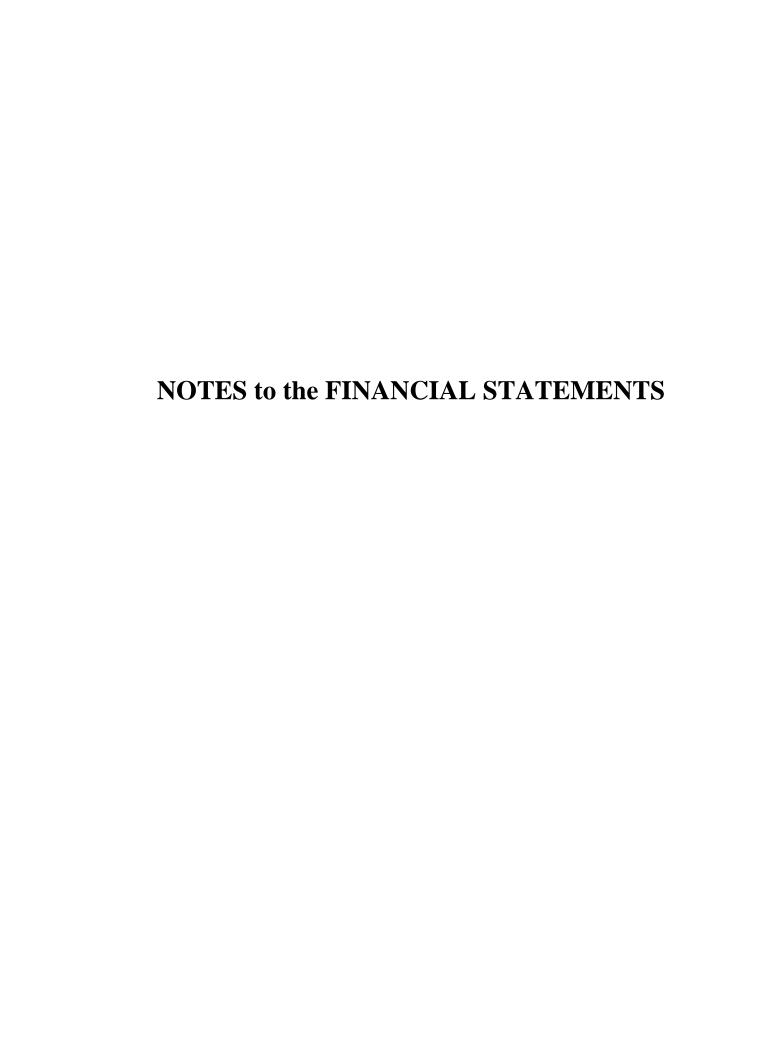
Spring Arbor Township Statement of Cash Flows Enterprise Funds (Concluded) For the Year Ended March 31, 2008

	 Sewer Fund	Water Fund	Totals
Reconciliation of operating income (loss) to net cash provided (used) by operating activities:			
Operating income (loss)	\$ (257,913)	\$ (63,910)	\$ (321,823)
Adjustments to reconcile operating income (loss)			
to net cash provided (used) by operating activities:			
Depreciation	186,053	71,112	257,165
Changes in assets and liabilities:			
Receivables	(15,324)	(1,166)	(16,490)
Accounts payable	 47,854	 (417)	47,437
Net cash provided (used) by operating activities	\$ (39,330)	\$ 5,619	\$ (33,711)

Spring Arbor Township Statement of Fiduciary Net Assets Tax Collection Agency Fund March 31, 2008

ASSETS

Assets Cash and cash equivalents LIABILITIES Liabilities Due to other governments \$ 12



Notes To Financial Statements

I. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

A. Reporting entity

Spring Arbor Township (the "government" or "Township") is a municipal corporation governed by an elected supervisor and a six-member board. The Township has adopted the position of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement #14 regarding the definition of reporting entity and has determined that no entities should be consolidated into the financial statements as component units. The criteria for including a component unit include significant operational or financial relationships with the government.

B. Government-wide and fund financial statements

The government-wide financial statements (i.e., the statement of net assets and the statement of activities) report information on all of the non-fiduciary activities of the primary government. For the most part, the effect of interfund activity has been removed from these statements. *Governmental activities*, which normally are supported by taxes and intergovernmental revenues, are reported separately from *business-type activities*, which rely to a significant extent on fees and charges for support.

The statement of activities demonstrates the degree to which the direct expenses of a given function or segment is offset by program revenues. *Direct expenses* are those that are clearly identifiable with a specific function or segment. *Program revenues* include 1) charges to customers or applicants who purchase, use, or directly benefit from goods, services, or privileges provided by a given function or segment and 2) grants and contributions that are restricted to meeting the operational or capital requirements of a particular function or segment. Taxes and other items not properly included among program revenues are reported instead as *general revenues*.

Separate financial statements are provided for governmental funds, proprietary funds, and fiduciary funds, even though the latter are excluded from the government-wide financial statements. Major individual governmental and enterprise funds are reported as separate columns in the respective fund financial statements.

Notes To Financial Statements

C. Measurement focus, basis of accounting and financial statement presentation

The government-wide financial statements are reported using the *economic resources* measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting, as are the proprietary fund and fiduciary fund financial statements, except for agency funds, which do not have a measurement focus. Revenues are recorded when earned and expenses are recorded when a liability is incurred, regardless of the timing of related cash flows. Property taxes are recognized as revenues in the year for which they are levied. Grants and similar items are recognized as revenue as soon as all eligibility requirements imposed by the provider have been met.

Governmental fund financial statements are reported using the *current financial* resources measurement focus and the modified accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are recognized as soon as they are both measurable and available. Revenues are considered to be available when they are collectible within the current period or soon enough thereafter to pay liabilities of the current period. For this purpose, the government considers revenues to be available if they are collected within 60 days of the end of the current fiscal period. Expenditures generally are recorded when a liability is incurred, as under accrual accounting. However, debt service expenditures, as well as expenditures related to compensated absences and claims and judgments, are recorded only when payment is due.

Property taxes, franchise taxes, intergovernmental revenue, licenses, and interest associated with the current fiscal period are all considered to be susceptible to accrual and so have been recognized as revenues of the current fiscal period. Only the portion of special assessments receivable due within the current fiscal period is considered to be susceptible to accrual as revenue of the current period. All other revenue items are considered to be measurable and available only when the government receives cash.

The government reports the following major governmental funds:

The *general fund* is the government's primary operating fund. It accounts for all financial resources of the general government, except those required to be accounted for in another fund.

The *fire millage special revenue fund* accounts for the collection of property taxes and expenditures related to the extra voted fire millage.

Notes To Financial Statements

The government reports the following major proprietary funds:

The *sewer enterprise fund* accounts for the activities of the government's sewage disposal and treatment system.

The water enterprise fund accounts for the activities of the government's water distribution and treatment system.

Additionally, the government reports the following fund types:

Special revenue funds. These funds account for revenue sources that are legally restricted to expenditures for specific purposes not including capital projects or permanent funds.

The agency fund accounts for assets held for other governments in an agency capacity.

Private-sector standards of accounting and financial reporting issued prior to December 1, 1989, generally are followed in both the government-wide and proprietary fund financial statements to the extent that those standards do not conflict with or contradict guidance of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board. Governments also have the *option* of following subsequent private-sector guidance for their business-type activities and enterprise funds, subject to this same limitation. The government has elected not to follow subsequent private-sector guidance.

Proprietary funds distinguish *operating* revenues and expenses from *nonoperating* items. Operating revenues and expenses generally result from providing services and producing and delivering goods in connection with a proprietary fund's principal ongoing operations. The principal operating revenues of the sewer enterprise fund are charges to customers for sales and services. The enterprise funds also recognize as operating revenues the portion of tap fees intended to recover the cost of connecting new customers to the system. Operating expenses for enterprise funds include the cost of sales and services, administrative expenses, and depreciation on capital assets. All revenues and expenses not meeting this definition are reported as nonoperating revenues and expenses.

When both restricted and unrestricted resources are available for use, it is the government's policy to use restricted resources first, then unrestricted resources as they are needed.

Notes To Financial Statements

D. Assets, liabilities and net assets/equity

1. Deposits and investments

The government's cash and cash equivalents are considered to be cash on hand, demand deposits and short-term investments with original maturities of three months or less from the date of acquisition.

State statutes authorize the government to deposit in the accounts of federally insured banks, credit unions, and savings and loan associations, and to invest in obligations of the U.S. Treasury, certain commercial paper, repurchase agreements, banker's acceptances, and mutual funds composed of otherwise legal investments.

2. Receivables and payables

Activity between funds that are representative of lending/borrowing arrangements outstanding at the end of the fiscal year are referred to as either "due to/from other funds" (i.e., the current portion of interfund loans) or "advances to/from other funds" (i.e., the non-current portion of interfund loans). All other outstanding balances between funds are reported as "due to/from other funds." Any residual balances outstanding between the governmental activities and business-type activities are reported in the government-wide financial statements as "internal balances."

3. Capital assets

Capital assets, which include property, plant, equipment, and infrastructure assets (e.g., roads, bridges, sidewalks and similar items), if any, are reported in the applicable governmental or business-type activities columns in the government-wide financial statements. Capital assets are defined by the government as assets with an initial, individual cost of more than \$100 and an estimated useful life in excess of 3 years. Such assets are recorded at historical cost or estimated historical cost if purchased or constructed. Donated capital assets are recorded at estimated fair value at the date of donation. The costs of normal maintenance and repairs that do not add to the value of the asset or materially extend assets lives are not capitalized.

Notes To Financial Statements

Major outlays for capital assets and improvements are capitalized as projects are constructed. Interest incurred during the construction phase of capital assets of business-type activities, if any, is included as part of the capitalized value of the assets constructed. No such interest expense was incurred during the current fiscal year.

Capital assets of the primary government are depreciated using the straight line method over the following estimated useful lives:

<u>Assets</u>	<u>Years</u>
Buildings	25-50
System infrastructure	30-50
Vehicles	3-30
Equipment	5-15

4. Compensated absences

Annually, the Township grants one week of paid vacation after six months of employment, two weeks after one year employment, three weeks after five years employment, and four weeks after ten years employment. Employees are entitled to one sick day per month, cumulative to fifteen days. Vacation and sick days cannot be carried over and, therefore, are not accrued in the accompanying financial statements.

5. Long-term obligations

In the government-wide financial statements, and proprietary fund types in the fund financial statements, long-term debt and other long-term obligations are reported as liabilities in the applicable governmental activities, business-type activities, or proprietary fund type statement of net assets.

6. Fund equity

In the fund financial statements, governmental funds report reservations of fund balance for amounts that are not available for appropriation or are legally restricted by outside parties for use for a specific purpose. Designations of fund balance represent tentative management plans that are subject to change.

Notes To Financial Statements

II. STEWARDSHIP, COMPLIANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

A. Budgetary information

Annual budgets are adopted for all governmental fund types each fiscal year on a basis consistent with generally accepted accounting principles. The government's final budget must be prepared and adopted prior to April 1st of each year.

Reported budgeted amounts are as originally adopted or as amended by the Township Board. The legal level of budgetary control is the activity level.

The government does not utilize encumbrance accounting.

B. Excess of expenditures over appropriations

P. A. 621 of 1978, as amended, provides that a local unit shall not incur expenditures in excess of the amounts appropriated. During the year ended March 31, 2008, the government incurred expenditures in excess of the amounts appropriated at the legal level of budgetary control as follows:

]	Final Budget	 Actual	 ariance
General Fund:				
Legislative	\$	40,966	\$ 85,717	\$ 44,751
Public safety - Zoning Board of Appeals		970	1,168	198

C. Deficit fund balance

The Building Inspection Department special revenue fund reported a fund balance deficit of \$17,897 as of March 31, 2008. This deficit will be eliminated by increasing building permit prices.

Notes To Financial Statements

III. DETAILED NOTES ON ALL FUNDS

A. Deposits and investments

A reconciliation of cash and investments as shown on the Statement of Net Assets to deposits and investments as classified for note disclosure purposes is as follows:

Statement of net assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$	316,437
Investments		2,022,668
Statement of fiduciary net assets -		
Cash and cash equivalents		12
	<u>\$</u>	2,339,117
Classification of deposit and investments:		
Bank deposits (checking, savings and CDs)	\$	1,315,849
Investments		1,022,668
Cash on hand		600
	<u>\$</u>	2,339,117

Investments

The Township chooses to disclose its investments by specifically identifying each. As of year end, the Township had the following investments:

<u>Investment</u>	Maturing	Fair Value	Rating
Governmental cash management fund	n/a	\$ 1,022,668	n/a

Deposit and investment risk

Interest Rate Risk. State law limits the allowable investments and the maturities of some of the allowable investments as identified above. The Township's investment policy does not have specific limits in excess of state law on investment maturities as a means of managing its exposure to fair value losses arising from increasing interest rates.

Credit Risk. State law limits investments to specific government securities, certificates of deposits and bank accounts with qualified financial institutions, commercial paper with specific maximum maturities and ratings when purchased, bankers acceptances of specific financial institutions, qualified mutual funds and external investment pools as identified in the list of authorized investments above. The Township's investment policy does not have specific limits in excess of state law on investment credit risk. The Township had no investments that required credit risk ratings at year end.

Notes To Financial Statements

Custodial Credit Risk – Deposits. Custodial credit risk is the risk that in the event of a bank failure, the Township's deposits may not be returned. State law does not require and the Township does not have a policy for deposit custodial credit risk. As of year end, \$262,439 of the Township's bank balance of \$1,373,117 was exposed to custodial credit risk because it was uninsured and uncollateralized.

Custodial Credit Risk – Investments. For an investment, custodial credit risk is the risk that, in the event of the failure of the counterparty, the Township will not be able to recover the value of its investments or collateral securities that are in the possession of an outside party. State law does not require and the Township does not have a policy for investment custodial credit risk. All investments are held in the name of the Township; as such, those investments are not exposed to custodial credit risk.

Concentration of Credit Risk. State law limits allowable investments but does not limit concentration of credit risk as identified in the list of authorized investments above. The Township's investment policy does not have specific limits in excess of state law on concentration of credit risk. All investments held at year end are reported above.

B. Receivables

Receivables as of year end are as follows:

	General Fund	R	e Millage Special Levenue Fund	No Gove	nmajor ernmental Funds	En	Sewer aterprise Fund	Water nterprise Fund	Total
Accounts receivable	\$ 3,734	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$ -	\$ 3,734
Taxes receivable	12,952		11,308		-		-	-	24,260
Special assessments receivable	-		-		2,326		-	320,293	322,619
Due from other governments	142,260		-		-		-	-	142,260
Interest receivable	41		-		-		840	-	881
User fees receivable	-		-		-		28,646	5,414	34,060
Delinquent user and connection fees	-		-		-		4,987	1,712	6,699
Connection fees receivable	 		-					 200	 200
	\$ 158,987	\$	11,308	\$	2,326	\$	34,473	\$ 327,619	\$ 534,713

Notes To Financial Statements

C. Capital assets

Capital assets activity for the year ended March 31, 2008, was as follows:

	Beginning Balance	Increases	Decreases	Ending Balance	
Governmental activities					
Capital assets not being					
depreciated - land	\$ 431,846	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 431,846	
Capital assets being depreciated:					
Land improvements	261,752	_	-	261,752	
Building and improvements	1,811,535	-	-	1,811,535	
Furniture and equipment	906,129	132,856	-	1,038,985	
Vehicles	1,217,108			1,217,108	
Total capital assets being					
depreciated	4,196,524	132,856		4,329,380	
Less accumulated depreciation for:					
Land improvements	97,168	7,278	-	104,446	
Building and improvements	776,597	36,833	-	813,430	
Furniture and equipment	453,286	65,843	-	519,129	
Vehicles	465,567	58,385		523,952	
	1 = 2 = 112	4 40 000		4 0 40 0	
Total accumulated depreciation	1,792,618	168,339		1,960,957	
Total capital assets being					
depreciated, net	2,403,906	(35,483)		2,368,423	
Governmental activities					
capital assets, net	\$ 2,835,752	\$ (35,483)	\$ -	\$ 2,800,269	

Notes To Financial Statements

	Beginning Balance	Increases	Decreases	Ending Balance
Business-type activities				
Capital assets not being				
depreciated:				
Land	\$ 39,098	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 39,098
Construction in progress		191,048		191,048
Total capital assets not being				
depreciated	39,098	191,048		230,146
Capital assets being depreciated:				
Sewer plant	6,320,474	-	-	6,320,474
Water plant	3,241,957	-	-	3,241,957
Equipment	371,229	11,113		382,342
Total capital assets being				
depreciated	9,933,660	11,113		9,944,773
Less accumulated depreciation for:				
Sewer plant	3,868,173	158,907	_	4,027,080
Water plant	839,265	71,112	-	910,377
Equipment	124,923	27,146		152,069
Total accumulated depreciation	4,832,361	257,165		5,089,526
Total capital assets being				
depreciated, net	5,101,299	(246,052)		4,855,247
Business-type activities				
capital assets, net	\$ 5,140,397	\$ (55,004)	<u>\$</u> -	\$ 5,085,393

Notes To Financial Statements

Depreciation expense was charged to functions/programs of the primary government as follows:

Governmental activities:		
Legislative	\$	1,917
General government		65,096
Public safety		87,261
Recreation and culture		14,065
Total depreciation expense - governmental activities	<u>\$</u>	168,339
Business-type activities:		
Sewer	\$	186,053
Water		71,112
Total depreciation expense – business-type activities	<u>\$</u>	257,165

D. Payables

Payables (governmental and business-type activities) are 100 percent vendors.

E. Long-term debt

Installment Purchase Agreement. The government used an installment purchase agreement to provide funds in the amount of \$59,900 for the acquisition of Harmony Park. This installment purchase agreement is expected to be repaid from the Public Improvement special revenue fund. Repayment is due in six annual installments of \$5,380 (including interest), with a final balloon payment of \$41,631 in the seventh year.

Annual debt service requirements to maturity for the purchase agreement are as follows:

	Principal		<u>Ir</u>	terest	 Total		
2009	\$	3,368	\$	2,012	\$ 5,380		
2010		3,502		1,878	5,380		
2011		3,642		1,738	5,380		
2012		40,038		1,593	 41,631		
	\$	50,550	\$	7,221	\$ 57,771		

Notes To Financial Statements

General Obligation Bonds. The government issues general obligation bonds to provide funds for the acquisition and construction of major capital facilities. General obligation bonds have been issued for proprietary activities. These bonds are reported in the proprietary funds because they are expected to be repaid from proprietary fund revenues.

General obligation bonds are direct obligations and pledge the full faith and credit of the government. These bonds generally are issued as 20-year serial bonds with varying amounts of principal maturing each year. General obligation bonds currently outstanding are as follows:

	Interest	
Purpose	<u>Rates</u>	Amount_
Water construction projects	3.50 - 4.75%	\$ 430,000

The water supply facilities bond payable is equal to the aggregate outstanding principal and interest payments due on the County of Jackson Water Supply Facilities Bonds (Spring Arbor Township Section). Those bonds were issued to finance the construction of the water supply facilities, which was managed and administered by the Jackson County Department of Public Works under contract with the Township. The cost of the system is capitalized in the Township's Water Enterprise Fund, which is financing the debt service payments through usage fees and special assessments.

Annual debt service requirements to maturity for the bonds are as follows:

	Principal	Interest	Total				
2009	\$ 25,000	\$ 17,887	\$ 42,887				
2010	25,000	17,000	42,000				
2011	25,000	16,100	41,100				
2012	25,000	15,175	40,175				
2013	25,000	14,237	39,237				
2014-2018	125,000	56,337	181,337				
2019-2023	125,000	30,001	155,001				
2024-2025	55,000	4,038	59,038				
	\$ 430,000	\$ 170,775	\$ 600,775				

Notes To Financial Statements

Changes in Long-Term Debt. Long-term liability activity for the year ended March 31, 2008 was as follows:

	Beginning Balance		Add	itions	Red	ductions	Ending Salance	Due within One Year		
Governmental activities - Installment purchase agreement	\$	53,789	\$	<u>-</u>	\$	3,239	\$ 50,550	\$	3,368	
Business-type activities - General obligation bonds	\$ 4	55,000	\$		\$	25,000	\$ 430,000	\$	25,000	

F. Interfund receivables, payables and transfers

For the year ended March 31, 2008, there was a payable due to the general fund from the building inspection department fund in the amount of \$17,891. This was created to eliminate the negative cash balance in the building inspection fund.

For the year ended March 31, 2008, interfund transfers out of the general fund consisted of transfers to the following special revenue funds:

	\$ 288,374
Public Improvement	 34,475
Fire Millage	\$ 253,899

Transfers are used to: (1) move revenues from the fund that is required to collect them to the fund that is required or allowed to expend them; (2) move receipts restricted to or allowed for debt service from the funds collecting the receipts to the debt service fund as debt service payments become due; and (3) use unrestricted revenues collected in the general fund to finance various programs accounted for in other funds in accordance with budgetary authorizations.

Notes To Financial Statements

IV. OTHER INFORMATION

A. Property taxes

Real and personal property taxes are recorded as revenue in the year for which they are levied, provided they are collectible during that year or within 60 days following that year's end. Property tax revenues shown in the General Fund and Fire Millage Special Revenue Fund reflect the 2007 Township levies of 0.8668 mills and 1.0145 mills, respectively, on the taxable valuation of property located in the Township as of the preceding December 31. Taxable values are established annually by the County and are equalized by the State at an estimated 50% of current market value or \$196,195,805. The 2007 levy became a lien on properties on December 1, 2007, and was substantially collected in early 2008. Taxes became delinquent on March 1, 2008.

B. Defined Contribution Pension Plan

The Spring Arbor Township Pension Plan provides pension benefits for all Township Officials and all other employees who work at least twenty hours per week on a regular basis, and who choose to belong to the plan. This benefit is a bank trust type plan administered by a Pension Committee under the provisions of Section 401(a) of the Internal Revenue Code. Plan provisions and contribution requirements are established and may be amended by the Township Board. The plan is held and administered by John Hancock.

A defined contribution pension plan provides pension benefits in return for services rendered, provides an individual account for each participant, and specifies how contributions to the individual's account are to be determined instead of specifying the amount of benefits the individual is to receive. Under a defined contribution pension plan, the benefits a participant will receive depend solely on the amount contributed to the participant's accounts and the returns on the investments of those contributions.

As amended effective April 1, 1986, the Township may, but is not required to, make a "discretionary contribution" for a plan year to the accounts of all eligible participants. The amount of the contribution is based upon participant compensation for the plan year.

There were 10 members in the plan at March 31, 2008. Contributions to the pension fund by the Township were \$27,219, which is 9% of covered payroll.

* * * * * *

COMBINING FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Spring Arbor Township Combining Balance Sheet Nonmajor Governmental Funds March 31, 2008

	Special Revenue Funds									Total		
		Street	Building						Nonmajor			
		Light Fund		Public Improvement		Inspection Department		Historical Committee		Governmental Funds		
<u>ASSETS</u>												
Assets												
Cash and cash equivalents	\$	19,732	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	19,732		
Investments		- 2226		58,672		-		30,798		89,470		
Special assessments receivable		2,326		-			-			2,326		
TOTAL ASSETS	\$	22,058	\$	58,672	\$	-	\$	30,798	\$	111,528		
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES	<u>S</u>											
Liabilities												
Interfund payable	\$	-		-	\$	17,891	\$	-	\$	17,891		
Accounts payable						6				6		
Total liabilities		-		-		17,897		-		17,897		
Fund balances (deficit)												
Unreserved, undesignated		22,058		58,672		(17,897)		30,798		93,631		
TOTAL LIABILITIES												
AND FUND BALANCES	\$	22,058	\$	58,672	\$		\$	30,798	\$	111,528		

Spring Arbor Township Combining Statement of Revenue, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances Nonmajor Governmental Funds For the Year Ended March 31, 2008

		Total								
	Street			Special Rev		Building			Nonmajor Governmental	
		Light	Public		Inspection		His	torical		
	Fund		Improvement		Department		Committee		Funds	
Revenue										
Current special assessments	\$	41,851	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	41,851
Delinquent special assessments		2,326		-		-		-		2,326
Licenses and permits		-	-		37,892		-			37,892
Contributions		-	5,149		-		-		5,149	
Interest and other revenue			7,932				1,329			9,261
Total revenue		44,177		13,081		37,892		1,329		96,479
Expenditures										
Current:										
General government		-		-		41,122		-		41,122
Public works		42,977		-		-		-		42,977
Recreation and culture		-		-		-		2,531		2,531
Debt service:										
Principal		-		3,239		-		-		3,239
Interest		-		2,138		-		-		2,138
Capital outlay				12,647						12,647
Total expenditures		42,977		18,024	-	41,122		2,531		104,654
Revenue over (under) expenditures		1,200		(4,943)		(3,230)		(1,202)		(8,175)
Other financing sources										
Transfers in				34,475						34,475
Net change in fund balances		1,200		29,532		(3,230)		(1,202)		26,300
Fund balance (deficit), beginning of year		20,858		29,140		(14,667)		32,000		67,331
Fund balance (deficit), end of year	\$	22,058	\$	58,672	\$	(17,897)	\$	30,798	\$	93,631



September 26, 2008

To the Board of Trustees Spring Arbor Township

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, the aggregate discretely presented component units, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the *Spring Arbor Township* (the "Township") for the year ended March 31, 2008, and have issued our report thereon dated September 26, 2008. Professional standards require that we provide you with the following information related to our audit.

Our Responsibility Under Auditing Standards Generally Accepted in the United States of America

As stated in our engagement letter dated April 30, 2008, our responsibility, as described by professional standards, is to express opinions about whether the financial statements prepared by management with your oversight are fairly presented, in all material respects, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Our audit of the financial statements does not relieve you or management of your responsibilities.

Our responsibility is to plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable, but not absolute, assurance that the financial statements are free of material misstatement. As part of our audit, we considered the internal control of the *Township*. Such considerations were solely for the purpose of determining our audit procedures and not to provide any assurance concerning such internal control. We are responsible for communicating significant matters related to the audit that are, in our professional judgment, relevant to your responsibilities in overseeing the financial reporting process. However, we are not required to design procedures specifically to identify such matters.

Planned Scope and Timing of the Audit

We performed the audit according to the planned scope and timing previously communicated to you in our meeting about planning matters on July 21, 2008.

Significant Audit Findings

Qualitative Aspects of Accounting Practices

Management is responsible for the selection and use of appropriate accounting policies. In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter, we will advise management about the appropriateness of accounting policies and their application. The significant accounting policies used by the Township are described in Note 1 to the financial statements. No new accounting policies were adopted and the application of existing policies was not changed during the year. We noted no transactions entered into by the governmental unit during the year for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus. There are no significant transactions that have been recognized in the financial statements in a different period than when the transaction occurred.

Accounting estimates are an integral part of the financial statements prepared by management and are based on management's knowledge and experience about past and current events and assumptions about future events. Certain accounting estimates are particularly sensitive because of their significance to the financial statements and because of the possibility that future events affecting them may differ significantly from those expected. The most sensitive estimates affecting the financial statements were:

 Management's estimate of the useful lives of depreciable capital assets is based on the length of time it is believed that those assets will provide some economic benefit in the future.

We evaluated the key factors assumptions used to develop these estimates in determining that they are reasonable in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.

Difficulties Encountered in Performing the Audit

We encountered no significant difficulties in dealing with management in performing and completing our audit.

Corrected and Uncorrected Misstatements

Professional standards require us to accumulate all known and likely misstatements identified during the audit, other than those that are trivial, and communicate them to the appropriate level of management. Management has corrected all such misstatements. The following material misstatements detected as a result of audit procedures were corrected by management:

- Accounts payable was overstated in various funds by approximately \$57,000
- Reimbursement revenue and professional services expenditures were understated in the general fund by approximately \$59,000

• Capital assets were understated and expenses were overstated in the sewer enterprise fund by approximately \$9,200

Disagreements with Management

For purposes of this letter, professional standards define a disagreement with management as a financial accounting, reporting, or auditing matter, whether or not resolved to our satisfaction, that could be significant to the financial statements or the auditor's report. We are pleased to report that no such disagreements arose during the course of our audit.

Management Representations

We have requested certain representations from management that are included in the management representation letter dated September 26, 2008.

Management Consultations with Other Independent Accountants

In some cases, management may decide to consult with other accountants about auditing and accounting matters, similar to obtaining a "second opinion" on certain situations. If a consultation involves application of an accounting principle to the Entity's financial statements or a determination of the type of auditor's opinion that may be expressed on those statements, our professional standards require the consulting accountant to check with us to determine that the consultant has all the relevant facts. To our knowledge, there were no such consultations with other accountants.

Other Audit Findings or Issues

We generally discuss a variety of matters, including the application of accounting principles and auditing standards, with management each year prior to retention as the governmental unit's auditors. However, these discussions occurred in the normal course of our professional relationship and our responses were not a condition to our retention.

This information is intended solely for the use of the governing body and management of *Spring Arbor Township* and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Very truly yours,

Rehmann Lobson

Comments and Recommendations

For the Year Ended March 31, 2008

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements of the Spring Arbor Township (the "Township") as of and for the year ended March 31, 2008, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, we considered the Township's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Township's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Township's internal control.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph and would not necessarily identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be significant deficiencies or material weaknesses. However, as discussed below, we identified certain deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be significant deficiencies.

A control deficiency exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent or detect misstatements on a timely basis. A significant deficiency is a control deficiency, or combination of control deficiencies, that adversely affects the entity's ability to initiate, authorize, record, process, or report financial data reliably in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles such that there is more than a remote likelihood that a misstatement of the entity's financial statements that is more than inconsequential will not be prevented or detected by the entity's internal control. We consider certain deficiencies, as described below, to be significant deficiencies in internal control.

A material weakness is a significant deficiency, or combination of significant deficiencies, that results in more than a remote likelihood that a material misstatement of the financial statements will not be prevented or detected by the entity's internal control.

Significant Deficiencies

Audit Adjustments

Criteria. The government is responsible for the reconciliation of all general ledger accounts to their proper underlying balances for the purpose of creating a reasonably adjusted trial balance, from which the basic financial statements are derived.

Condition. During our fieldwork, numerous adjusting journal entries were needed in order to create a reasonably adjusted trial balance, all of which we found to be significant entries. These included entries needed for the following:

Comments and Recommendations (Continued)

For the Year Ended March 31, 2008

- To adjust accounts payable to actual in various funds
- To properly record the activity related the stormwater project
- To capitalize certain amounts that had been expensed in the business-type activities

Cause. Internal controls did not detect all adjustments necessary to properly record year-end balances.

Effect. As a result of this condition, the government is not able to produce accurate financial information.

View of Responsible Officials. The Township will ensure that all general ledger accounts reconcile to their proper underlying balances during the next fiscal year.

Preparation of Financial Statements in Accordance with GAAP

Criteria. All Michigan governments are required to prepare financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP). This is a responsibility of the government's management. The preparation of financial statements in accordance with GAAP requires internal controls over both (1) recording, processing, and summarizing accounting data (i.e., maintaining internal books and records), and (2) reporting government-wide and fund financial statements, including the related footnotes (i.e., external financial reporting)

Condition. As is the case with many smaller and medium-sized entities, the government has historically relied on its independent external auditors to assist in the preparation of the government-wide financial statements and footnotes as part of its external financial reporting process. Accordingly, the government's ability to prepare financial statements in accordance with GAAP is based, in part, on its external auditors, who cannot by definition be considered a part of the government's internal controls.

Cause. Due to the lack of knowledge, expertise and education relative to preparing GAAP financial statements possessed by the finance department, management has made the decision that it is in its best interest to outsource the preparation of its annual financial statements to the auditors rather than to incur the time and expense of obtaining the necessary training and expertise required for the government to perform this task internally.

Effect. As a result of this condition, the government lacks *internal* controls over the preparation of financial statements in accordance with GAAP, and instead relies, in part, on its *external* auditors for assistance with this task.

Comments and Recommendations (Continued)

For the Year Ended March 31, 2008

View of Responsible Officials. The Township has evaluated the benefit of establishing internal controls over the preparation of financial statements in accordance with GAAP, and determined that it is in the best interests of the Township to outsource this task to its external auditors, and to carefully review the draft financial statements and notes prior to approving them and accepting responsibility for their content and presentation.

Other Matters

Approval of Invoices

According to the Michigan Department of Treasury, the Board must approve all invoices prior to payment, unless addressed otherwise in the charter. The legislative body may establish a formal policy to authorize payments *prior* to approval in order to avoid late charges and to pay appropriated amounts and payroll and other regular recurring bills (such as utilities, rent, etc.). The policy must be very limited, and a list of payments approved by the Board would be done after the fact. The Township Board is not presently approving invoices prior to payment.

Approval of Payroll

Currently, a particular employee has the ability to enter/change payroll data and is the individual responsible for preparing payroll. Once payroll is prepared and the checks are printed, a person independent of the payroll function reviews the payroll checks for reasonableness. As part of this procedure, a log is kept of the check numbers to ensure that all checks are accounted for. However, this individual does not review the payroll detail for those employees receiving direct deposit. In order to enhance internal controls in this area, we recommend that the Township implement a procedure in which someone independent of preparing payroll, and having access to other payroll data, reviews and approves the detail of those receiving their paychecks through direct deposit.

In addition to the review of the payroll output, we recommend that someone review what changes are being input to the payroll system (changes in salary and wage rates, etc). Some software applications have the ability to run reports which detail any changes made to the payroll master files. We recommend that the Township consult with their software company to see if an option like this is available to them. By having the ability to run this report monthly and having someone independent of the payroll input and output reviewing and approving this report internal controls in this area would be greatly strengthened.

Comments and Recommendations (Concluded)

For the Year Ended March 31, 2008

Review of Capital Asset Records

It was noted during this year's audit that capital asset records are not reviewed on a periodic basis by various departments in order to verify the existence of such assets. We recommend that the detailed capital asset records be reviewed at least annually to ensure that the Township is not carrying assets on their books that have been deleted or disposed of. In addition, currently the Township's capitalization threshold is \$100. This small amount leads to many assets having to be accounted for and depreciated. We recommend that the Township review this policy and possibly increase the threshold to capitalize assets.

<u>Internal Controls – Segregation of Duties</u>

Last year we made a comment regarding separation or segregation of duties. Following are the specific matters that still existed as of this year's audit.

- Particular employees may physically receipt cash or checks and make bank deposits.
- Particular employees may handle cash receipts or disbursements and prepare bank reconciliations.
- Particular employees may initiate bank transfers and also prepare bank reconciliations
- Authorized bank accounts are not periodically approved by the governing board.
- Investment statements are not reconciled to the general ledger monthly by an individual not responsible for managing the investments.
- Not all purchases are supported by either a purchase order or check request, signed by an authorized individual not responsible for preparing checks.
- A check register is not reviewed by an authorized individual not responsible for preparing the checks before the checks are signed.
- Before running payroll checks, the payroll register is not reviewed and approved by an authorized individual not responsible for preparing the checks.

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